

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01973 011312Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 097120

P R 301728Z OCT 75 ZFD

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7328

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJ: FIANNA FAIL CHANGES POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND

1. THE "BIPARTISAN" POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND
IN THE IRISH REPUBLIC WAS SHATTERED LAST NIGHT WHEN THE
OPPOSITION PARTY, FIANNA FAIL (FF), ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING UPON
THE BRITISH TO DECLARE A COMMITMENT "TO IMPLEMENT AN ORDERED
WITHDRAWAL FROM HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE SIX COUNTIES OF NORTHERN
IRELAND." THE STATEMENT FURTHER CALLS UPON THE BRITISH TO ASSURE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE NORTH DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION,
AND PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "ALL IRELAND COURT." IT
REITERATES THE OLD FIANNA FAIL DOCTRINE OF THE EVENTUAL
REUNIFICATION OF IRELAND "BY PEACEFUL MEANS."

2. ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AND DEFENDED BY PARTY
LEADER JACK LYNCH, IT IS OBVIOUS TO ALL OBSERVERS THAT THIS
"RADICAL SWING IN POLICY" (IRISH TIMES) REPRESENTS A SEVERE
POLITICAL DEFEAT FOR LYNCH, WHO FOR YEARS HAS RESISTED THE
HARDLINER WING OF HIS PARTY WHICH BELIEVES ALL PROBLEMS WOULD
BE SOLVED BY A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL. A SOURCE CLOSE TO PARTY
INNER COUNCILS TOLD THE POLITICAL OFFICER TODAY THAT THIS
MOVE, IN FACT, REPRESENTS A "COUP D'ETAT" BY SHADOW HEALTH
MINISTER CHARLES HAUGHEY, WHO WAS VIRTUALLY SACKED BY LYNCH
SOME YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF HIS TOO-SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD
THE IRA. HAUGHEY, WHO WAS TRIED FOR GUN-RUNNING IN 1971 AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01973 011312Z

ACQUITTED, HAS SINCE WORKED HIMSELF BACK TO THE FRONT BENCH

DESPITE LYNCH'S HOSTILITY. OUR SOURCE SAID THE STATEMENT, ISSUED LAST NIGHT, WAS AGREED TO AFTER A BITTER DEBATE AMONG THE PARLIAMENTARY FF DELEGATION AND A CLOSE VOTE IN WHICH HAUGHY SURPRISED LYNCH BY ENGINEERING A MAJORITY. LYNCH HAS DUTIFULLY DEFENDED THE STATEMENT TODAY, CALLING IT ONLY AN "EVOLUTION" OF HIS FORMER POSITION.

3. LABOR PARTY SECRETARY BRENDAN HALLIGAN TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE GOVERNMENT COALITION WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT LATER TODAY CONDEMNING THE FF POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND, AND REITERATING ITS OWN POLICY OF "EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION WHENEVER A MAJORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND DECIDES IT WANTS TO JOIN WITH THE REPUBLIC."

4. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS MOVE REALLY REPRESENTS A TAKEOVER OF THE FIANNA FAIL BY HARDLINERS. AT LEAST SOME OF LYNCH'S SUPPORTERS WERE OFF IN COUNTY MAYO STUMPING IN A BYELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND LYNCH HAS SHOWN GREAT POLITICAL RESILIENCY IN THE PAST WHEN IT HAS SEEMED THAT HAUGHEY HAD THE BETTER OF HIM. HOWEVER, IF THE MODERATE LYNCH HAS RTTH LOST CONTROL, IT IS NOT GOOD NEWS FOR ANY EFFORTS AT A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STIFFEN THE BACKS OF THE PROTESTANTS AGAINST ANY COMPROMISE. A TYPICAL REACTION WAS THAT OF BRIAN FAULKNER, THE LEADER OF THE UNIONIST PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND, AS QUOTED BY THE IRISH TIMES: "THE STATEMENT IS DISGRACEFULLY IRRESPONSIBLE. IT INDICATES A COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY REGARD FOR THE DEMOCRATICALLY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO STAY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OR ANY CONCERN FOR THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF ANY SECTION OF THE PEOPLE HERE." CURLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN01973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0379
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975106/aaaaafkd.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIANNA FAIL CHANGES POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND
TAGS: PFOR, EI, UK, FIANNA FAIL, (HAUGHEY, CHARLES), (LYNCH, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006